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TWO CENTS.

BRITISH LINE FIRM UNDER ASSAULTS: ALLIES GAIN SOUTH OF THE SOMME; U. S. FORCES HELP SMASH ATTACKS

German Advance Near Merville and Locon Frustrated by Haig's Men, Who Deliver Counter Blows.

HANGARD RETAKEN FROM KAISER; RHEIMS BURNS, HEAVILY SHELLED

Teutons Renew Efforts in Apremont Forest, Where U. S. Forces Take Prisoners—English Score Advance in the Region of Givnchy.

Indications that the German drive in the Armentieres region lo losing some of its force are contained in today's official news from the battle lines.

Simultaneously American help is counting strongly in the hold ing of the long Franco-Belgian front at other points, notably in the region east of St. Mihiel, where American troops have again given a plendid account of themselves in hard fighting in Apremont forest.

The Germans last night returned to the attack on the French SUPREME EFFORT NOW ON positions in Brule wood, in the Apremont region, where French and American troops yesterday repulsed a German thrust. The Americans once more displayed a vigorous resistance and in conjunction that this is a "critial moment" for the with the French beat off the Germans, throwing them out by a alled cause, officers in Washington counter attack from the one point where an enemy footing was obtained.

GERMANS DRIVING FOR BAILEUL.

In the Flanders fighting the Germans apparently are making ir strongest effort in their drive for Baileul, the important railray point northwest of Armentieres feeding the Messines ridge ection. The heaviest fighting last night in this region seems to ave been in the Neuve Eglise-Wulverghem sector, between Baileul sines, the Germans directing their thrust here instead of below Bailleul and southwest of it, as was indicated yes. This engagement was still in progress at a late hour last the semantal counted. The only strategic point gained by the enemy was the obtaining of a foothold on the Messines ridge, and reports toward noon indicated that the British are resisting further incursions at that Messines, the Germans directing their thrust here instead of ectly below Bailleul and southwest of it, as was indicated yes-

Elsewhere the British successes were of a positive nature. They topped the attempt of the Germans to advance west of Merville, where the railway base of Hazebrouck is the objective, repulsing an my attack. Likewise, they held up the enemy in his southwesterly push for Bethune, checking him at Locon, three miles north ably are of Bethune, where two heavy attacks were beaten off.

SOUTHERN ANCHORAGE STRONGLY HELD.

Meanwhile, the southerly anchorage of the British line was being strongly held just to the north of Givenchy, where the British ot only maintained themselves, but advanced their lines slightly ear Festubert, charging an important enemy post.

Allied successes were also scored on the Somme battle front, the French and British in a united attack near the River Luce, southeast of Amiens, where their lines join, driving the Germans comletely out of the village of Hangard, which had been penetrated in German attack during the day.

Part of the city of Rheims, close to the battle line, which has been under a German "reprisal" bombards vent, is in flames, the Paris war office announces today. The French are working under heavy hellfire to limit the burning area.

PARIS, April 13.—The Germans last

n this sector in conjunction with the

French, says today's official statement.

have combated with vigor and broken

footing he was thrown out by a counter

The city of Rheims is in flames. The

French are attempting to limit the burn-

On the Somme battle front the entire

cemetery have been regained from the

Text of Official Report.

"Counter attacks delivered during the

night by French troops in the region

of Hangard-en-Santerre resulted in the enemy being thrown back completely.

The French again old the entire vil-

ette and the Aisne German raids were pulsed by the French fire. The rench took prisoners in the sectors of Hilaire and Sonain.

Continue to Shell Rheims.

The statement follows:

ing area, working under a heavy bom-

bardment.

night renewed their attacks upon the

By the Associated Press.
LONDON, April 13.—There was heavy Senting last evening near Neuve Eglise French positions in Brule wood, in the and Wulverghem and the battle here forest of Apremont. American troops was still in progress at a late hour last

The Germans made an attack fast night west of Merville on the northern the majority of the enemy attacks. At to se attle front and were repulsed, the war one point where the enemy obtained a

Strong enemy forces launched an at- attack. tack early last night east of Locon and Proceeded in entering the British lines st certain points, but was ejected by a sounter attack. A second attack atsempted later in the night at the same place was beaten off.

In the sector south of the Somme British and French troops by counter at-Engard, which they penetrated yester-

Text of Official Report.

The statement follows:
"Heavy fighting developed yesterday

ing in the neighborhood of Neuve cour less night was still continuing.

To avanced our lines slightly in the seventy prisoners, of whom three are hour last night was still continuing. dehborhood of Festubert and secured

tack preceded by a heavy bombardest was launched against our post s east of Locon. The enemy sucin entering our lines at certain but was driven out again by a sted by the enemy later in the of During the early par ight the enemy also attacked Verville and was repulsed. On lader of the northern battle

FIRST U. S. FLIERS TO WIN NEW "D.S.C." OF AMERICAN ARMY

PARIS, April 13.-James Norsection, and Paul Frank Baer, a lleutenant, are the first American aviators to win the distinguished service cross of the American

Army.

Oapt. Hall, leading a patrol, attacked a group of five German machines, destroyed one and forced down two others.

Lieut. Baer attacked single-handed a group of seven planes and destroyed one near Rheims. On another occasion he attacked two two-seaters, one of which

OFFICERS FORESEE RALLY OF BRITISH

"No Cause for Extreme Depression," Is Opinion of Local Strategists.

the progress of Germany's erate thrust at the British forces

the impression of a critical stage in the allied defense, they say, it bears evidence of a rallying cry to British forces, which may mark a supreme effort resulting in throwing back the second tremendous drive of the Germans since they started their apring offensive.

Counter attack, officers think.

Army Moving Bapidly.

One phrase which might seem to indicate a damaging admission of weakness, to the effect that "The French army is moving rabidly and in great force to our support," does not necessarily mean, it was pointed out, that France is sending reinforcements to the present scene of English resistance, but that she may be contemplating a counter attack on a large scale, which will divert German attention to another quarter.

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will divert German attention to another quarter.

In this connection it was estimated by one officer that the British now have on French soil approximately 1,200,000 men, a number as great as the entire force of the Germans now engaged on the western front. The British total, of course, includes green troops sent to France since the spring drive began, which are of use in filling in on quiet sectors.

Little credence was placed here in Little credence was placed here in the reports of a contemplated naval offensive on the part of Germany. If this is her purpose, it points to German weakness, some officers believe, because it long has been held here that the only occasion upon which Germany would risk her vessels amid the British protection in the North sea would be when her forces had reached a stage when reinforcements from England or

If Germany reached such a pass, i was explained, she might be expecte to send out fast cruisers in the hop to send out last cruisers in the nope of waylaying transports bearing reinforcements. Such a course would mean ultimate loss of her vessels, either by destruction or by their internment in a neutral port if they sought refuge

Landing of Troops Unlikely.

Landing of German troops on French or Belgian soil by use of naval vessels s considered an impossible accomplish-

village of Hangard and the adjoining

is considered an impossible accomplishment.

To some officers Gen. Haig's statement indicated that he had adopted one of two courses. The first is that of a determined stand where his troops now are placed, and a resistance of any further German advances at any cost. Another was a counter offensive of his own, independent of the one on a larger scale which is expected sooner or later from the joint allied forces in the region of the Somme.

There are elements of advantage in the situation as a whole, it was pointed out, which are favorable to the allies. For one thing Germany has sustained such heavy losses and paid so heavily for the gains she has made, both before Amiens and Armentieres, that it is believed she is practically without fresh troops on the western front at the present time. Whole divisions have been decimated and deleted, thrown together and rushed back to the battle line, time and time again.

Unless the belief in the allied army of reserve is groundless, the allies have a reserve of some 800,000 troops with which to conduct their motors.

Unless the belief in the allied army of reserve is groundless, the allies have a reserve of some \$00,000 troops with which to conduct their major counter offensive when ready. Though a large portion of these now are being used along the lines for defensive purposes, they have been in duiet sectors, and are believed to be in good condi-

Transportation Not Checked.

Nowhere have the Germans pene-trated the allied lines far enough, as they had hoped, to interfere seriously with the British and French trans-portation of men and supplies. As now placed the allied forces, munitions and supplies are far more mobile than those of the Germans, which must be trans-ported partly over ground shell torn

PARIS RAID KILLS 24; 5 DEAD IN BRITAIN

Stronger Defenses Effective in Causing Hasty Action by German Fliers.

MANY PERSONS INJURED

PARIS, April 13.—Twenty-four persons were killed and sixty-two injured Paris, according to the latest official in-

aid fell in one spot, striking a house It was evident the raiders found their work much more difficult under the ew system of aerial defenses, and dropped their bombs hastily.

It was a still, dark night of the nost favorable for an aerial attack and a raid was generally expected. The heaters were in the midst of their performances when the sounding of sirens nd the noise of anti-airplane guns gave warning that the raiders were approaching. The crowds in the theaters made their way to the cellars or to other selters nearby, arrangements for wich had been made in advance. In the cellar of the Comedie Francaise, one of the performers sang old French songs. As on the occasion of previous raids, ambulances of the American Red Cross

Shells Again Reach Paris.

For the first time since the long distance bombardment of Paris, German shells reached the Paris region after sunset. A projectile struck somewhere near the city at 8:05 o'clock this evening.
In the Paris district today two persons were killed and twelve wounded by the bombardment.

Casualties in England.

LONDON, April 12.—Five persons were killed and fitteen others injured in the German air raid last hight on England, according to an official announcement made today.

The announcement reads:
"Four airships participated in last night's raid. Two of them penetrated a few miles inland. Of the other two, one reached the Midlands and the other nearly reached the northwest coast. The raiders were traveling at a great height and showed no inclination to attempt to penetrate defended areas.
"Most of the bombs were dropped in open country, and apart from the demolition of four houses at one place, the damage so far reported is incon-

PASSED BY HOUSE

stead of on Total

Population.

The administration draft bill, which makes the registration in class one the basis for draft quotas rather than the total population, was passed by the House today by a vote of 323 to 3. The three who voted against it were Representatives Burnett of Alabama, Hud-

FOUR SOLDIERS ARE ARRESTED

Detention Follows Hotel Robbery and Shooting of Five.

JAMAICA, N. Y., April 13 .- Four soldiers from Camp Mills were locked up at police headquarters here today after Tobbed and a woman and four men had been shot at Hollis, Long Island. The said they were Roy S. Smithson, twenty-four years old, of Alderson, W. Va.:

William B. Harrison, twenty, of Centerville, Tenn.; Otis O. Walker, nineteen, of Milburn, Okla., and Harry Cohen, twenty, of Brooklyn. Walker is a sergeant.

Four of the persons wounded were members of an automobile party which followed a number of soldiers after the hotel robbery. The soldiers after their guns and opened fire at the pursuers, who were shot through chest or hip. I They were removed to a hospital. Harily Weber, a policeman, was shot and seriously wounded while attempting to round up the soldiers.

INFLUENCE "STRAPS" ATTACKED IN HOUSE

The War Department action in com-

issioning men of draft age, with poitical influence, after repeated assurances had been given to Congress that commissions would not be given to men of draft age, was severely criticised today on the floor of the House by Representative Anthony of Kansas, a member of the military affairs committee.

The discussion occurred when a report from the acting Secretary of War was made to the House in response to the resolution by Representative Anthony inquiring regarding the commission as captain in the Ordnance Corps given to Herbert A. Meyer, formerly private secretary to Secretary Lade, This report was interrupted by unsailmous consent granted to Representative Anthony to discuss the report in order to expedite action in having it referred to the military affairs com-

FORTY INSANE BOYS | COMMONS REJECTS BURN IN OKLAHOMA

Many in Panic Ran Back in Flames at Norman State Institution.

ALL WARDS DESTROYED

NORMAN, Okla., April 13.-About forty oys ranging in age from ten to fifteen years, all patients at the State Hospital for the Insane here, were burned to death early today in a fire of upknown origin that completely destroy-

Dr. Griffin said the greatest' number of deaths occurred in ward 15, where children had little chance to escape, because of the rapidity of the flames and subsequent panic. No lives nmates were rescued with difficulty. In the confusion some of the children flames after they had been safely re-

Dr. Griffin expressed the opinion that last night. The total vote shows that a tion of one the fire, which was discovered shortly after 3 o'clock this morning, originated in the engineroom of the hospital.

The teachers in the ward buildings The debate in the house yesterday and attempted to marshal the children toattempted to marshal the children together and march them out, but most
of them became unmanageable and
some rushed back into the flames. In
the rush for safety, children of the various wards became confused, and
count of those who had been taken
from the burning building was lost.
A roll call of the inmates of the hospital was soon under way in an effort
to learn how many were missing.

Unable to Move Left Arm or Leg. Temperature Is 101

Senator Stone of Missouri, who sufday, became worse today, after spending a restless night, and is in a serious ent today. He is unable to move his is physicians said, and his tempera ture registers 101 degrees.

THE MASTER DETECTIVE

By Thomas W. Hanshew

HE Affair of the this new series of fascinating "crime stories." Each episode is complete in itself, yet the whole forms a serial of unusual

In this series Cleek, "The Vanishing Cracksman," reforms culiar gifts for the detection instead of the commission of crime. His former thleving sociates determine to wreak

Read the first opisede tomor row in the Special Features SUNDAYSTAR

PLEA TO RELIEVE IRISH FROM DRAFT Department of Labor Will In-

Majority of 172 Votes Against **Omitting Clause From** Man-Power Bill.

ASQUITH LINES UP IN GRAVE WAR CRISIS

Craven Not to Force Conscription, Declares Bonar Law-Irish Members in Uproar.

LONDON, April 13 .- A proposal by Irish nationalists to omit the conscription of Ireland clause from the government power bill was rejected by a ma-

last night was remarkable for the speech of H. H. Asquith, the former pre- stated at the housing bureau today that mier, who, while strongly objecting to the bureau will be ready to start work mier, who, while strongly objecting to the conscription of Ireland, frankly declined to take the responsibility at the moment the nation is facing a grave military crisis of pushing that opposition to the extent of forcing a change tion to the extent of forcing a change in the government. Henry E. Duke, chief secretary for Ireland, made a brave attempt to conciliate the Irish members. The effort led to a strong altercation with the nationalists at the close of the debate.

The definitely decided on. An official of the bureau said that the houses may not present a fancy architectural appearance, but that every facility for comfort and sanitation will be provided. tion to the extent of forcing a change

Craven Not to Do It, Says Law.

The government spokesman in the source, Andrew Bonar Law, in a brief speech winding up the discussion, con-tended that the government had a moral right in what they were doing and would "We could not tell America she had the

left arm or leg, a statement issued by at home," he said. "We intend at the

TO A

int if it toos the same of the same of the same of the government action in same who are terms of the government action in any suchant terms declaring it was fraugh the the greatest peril the government was not had had to face. Their wisagt cours as to withdraw the clause conscripting and at the sarilest possible moment.

Devlin Would Enlist.

WILL HOUSE CLERKS **NEAR DEPARTMENTS**

ERMAN-AMERICAN

vade Potomac Park, But Will Spare Trees.

PLANS ARE BEING DRAWN

A policy of erecting temporary hous each government department on government land as near that department as possible has practically been decided

parts of Potomac Park, officials of the lousing bureau gave assurances today that it would not be necessary to cut down or destroy the stately trees that erty in the downtown part of the city. These officials are satisfied that there will be ample open space.

Union station plaza, it is understood also has been decided on for the loca- the air. It was structures.

Architects are now busily engaged on plans for the structures, and it was

comfort and sanitation will be provided.

Congested conditions on all the street car lines of the city is understood to have been the chief factor considered by the housing bureau in reaching the conclusion to house the war workers on government property near the departments. Although the housing bill which is expected to pass the Senate in a few days empowers the Department of Labor to provide transportation facilities as well as houses, officials of the department said today they could not get new street cars at this time if they wanted to.

day, occurred under heavy general selling, particularly from the south coupled with further rains in Texas and pessimistic war news. July touched 50.70. Today's break represented a deficiency of more than \$15 a bale from the

NO LONGER STANDS AT WAR COLLEGE

Kaiser's Gift Removed From **Pedestal Today and Placed** in Storage.

PRESIDENT IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE SUGGESTED STEP

Retention of Image of "Father of Prussian Militarism" Has Been Cause of Criticism.

The much-discussed statue of Fredrick the Great, a wift of the kalser to ory of his fighting encestor, was removed from its position on the terrace n front of the War College today. It is understood that orders for the removal of the statue were given Col W. Ketcham, acting secretary of the college, by Acting Secretary Crow-ell, at the suggestion of President Wilson. The work was done quietly and without ostentation. About the grounds were companies of engineers at drills and sentinals on guard duty.

Had Charge of Bemoval.

the air. It was then securely observed and tied to the A-frame and removed to a cold and damp corner in a store-room of the War College.

It was the second instance in the history of the country that the War Department had ordered the removal of a statue. The first was in the revolutionary war, when the statue of George III at New York was removed from its pedestal and melted into bullets. For the present the statue of Frederick the Great will be kept at the War College.

May Never Be Replaced.

Many suggestions as to the disposal of the statue were made to the College. One was that a slit be made in it for the reception of money for war work, such as the Red Cross, Y. M. war work, such as the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A. or the Knights of Columbus, after it had been placed in the center of the city. Other suggestions were that it be melted into bullets, as was the King George statue, and sent back into the German lines at the front. There are foundations for six statues at the War College. It is doubtful, according to infognation received, whether the statue will ever return to its original pedestal, the information being given that there will be a sufficient number of American heroes to whom statues will be erected to fill up the vacant places.

JURORS TO STAY AT HOME